

## RECONSTRUCTION.

**Rev. Twaddling Tilton on the Rampage.**

**The Radicals Not Satisfied with the Constitutional Amendment.**

**A STRONG HINT TO THE SOUTH.**

Ac. Ac. Ac.

## The White Feather.

The National Committee of the republican party have issued an address to the American people. "The decree of a council," said Cotton Mather, "shall no more force than there is force in the reason of it." Will sorrow now be the lot of the South? Will the South be the scene of the woes of those American citizens who are determined not to compromise impartial suffrage. This most solemn of reasons, therefore, confronts the committee's address with condemnation. *"The country is too critical a condition, the safety of our nation depends on the prompt adoption of the constitutional amendment to go far as representing, as stippling, and particularly as blighting the radical party. God grant that the great party of liberty shall prove true to its trust."*

Fellow countrymen, let us consider.

For eighteen months, the daily topic of men's talk has been the reconstruction of the Union. Unanimity of opinion does not prevail. Opposing plans do not harmonize; opposing principles are embodied in opposing parties. The republican party is divided between the advocates of readmission without securing the negro's political rights and the advocates of readmission only after the guarantee of impartial suffrage. At the time of the formation of the republicans, they took up the banner of equal rights. We joined the cause not to desert it, but to fight for it till the victory. It is a sacred cause; the cause of humanity and justice, the cause of peace and good will. The noblest men of the nation are its champions; the noblest women are its petitioners to Heaven for benevolence on its behalf. In New England and on the prairies over a million families with six or seven children, and over a thousand soldiers of every age now in their huts of straw at any loss amply sufficient of the war than a settlement left safe and sound. That settlement must maintain the political equality of American citizens, without questioning God's wisdom in varying the color of the human race face by face. *"The true cause of all our woes is the want of endurance. The radical party are not to be driven from it, not to be persuaded from it, not to be removed from it. They may, or may not be a majority of the loyal North; the question of negroes' rights to be settled by God himself, they prove a majority of us."* And this is the true cause of all our woes, and they will never surrender, seeing their opportunity, they mean to seize it; knowing their strength, they mean to exert it; believing in their cause, they mean to win it. At this moment the sky of promise is bright with assured light, wherein we may now see the golden emblem. By this sign alone.

This journal and its legion of friends—whom may God bless!—having taken this position from the beginning, are resolved to maintain it to the end. Therefore, when the South comes to the national capital, let them bring their official scroll, asking us to consent to a compromise of principle, asking us to pledge the republican vote of next November to a reconstruction on the inadequate basis of the pending amendment, asking us to leave the negroes in the hands of the most unscrupulous of men, we can only exclaim, Heaven forbid! The radical party, both North and South, regards the pending amendment as a proper measure—measure which it advocates with pleasure and earnestness—but regards it as a means to an end, and that end is to be gained by a tariff bill, or a federal treaty, or a neutrality law. The more amendment will not reconstruct; it will not alter one whit the present relation of the white race to the black. It will not put out of the way of all temptation to entrench the blacks, as at the constitution of 1789 held out, through three-fifths clause, a faint and fair off temptation to abolish slavery. Slavery was not abolished under the mild influence of temporizing, and the negro's enforcement will not be achieved by such temptation, but by such composition. Accordingly, the radical party, North and South, white and black, as agent to no reconstruction short of impartial suffrage. Is Congress already come to the conclusion that all the South is not constituted for or against impartial suffrage? It is not so. It is the South that remains.

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In it asked, Why was Tennessee admitted on the basis of the amendment? In the first place, Tennessee ought not to have been admitted on such a basis; her admission was a snatched crisis and blunder. But the apology which Congress made for this act of omission, her case was set to the test, and she was admitted for the ten other States. Already the admission of Tennessee had become the leading cause of the reconstruction of Congress. The question of the admission of Tennessee was the cause of the final measure of reconstruction. To say, therefore, as the National Committee did, that, on condition of adopting the amendment, as Tennessee adopted it, "the door stands invitingly open for the other States, in so far as they are willing to come to it to the hope. There is a door, however, that does stand invitingly open;" and whenever those States shall choose to enter through it, they will be received with "bonos, thanksgivings and benedictions." It is to be hoped that this will be the case.

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We therefore say, The South is not pledged, either by any existing orer of terms to the unconstructed States, or by the president of Tennessee, to make the constitutional amendment the basis of restoration. Even the New York Times, of Monday, September 24, acknowledges this fact. It says:

The action of the Senate of the nation has nothing whatever to do, as the law stands, with the admission or rejection of members from the Southern States. A bill providing for the admission of an unconstructed State to the Union by the House, or of every Southern State should ratify the amendment. Congress, has not even so much as thought to admit their representatives in Congress.

This is true. To say, therefore, with the Syracuse Republican Convention, or with the address of the National Republican Committee, that Congress will restore the ten waiting States if these States adopt the amendment is absurd.

Admirable is the National Committee's logic, compact and iron bound, to prove the power of Congress over the question of reconstruction. We joyfully assent to the argument. But, if Congress has an absolute right to do what it pleases, why not the president? Why not the National Committee to pledge and bind Congress to advance? Is Congress, after rejecting the dictation of the President, to submit to the dictation of the National Committee? In the name of the radical party, we heartily say, No; and, since we speak, no representative from the South can pledge to the rebels as absolutely authorized, excepted and sold.

Look at the following passage from the Committee's address:

"But," say some, "this action of the radical amendment is to do what you please, and you have no right to do what you please." We say, we have only to notify our ruling caste that we will no longer bear arms to keep their slaves in servitude, and to demand that they release us from the National Committee to pledge and bind Congress to advance?" Is Congress, after rejecting the dictation of the President, to submit to the dictation of the National Committee? In the name of the radical party, we heartily say, No; and, since we speak, no representative from the South can pledge to the rebels as absolutely authorized, excepted and sold.

Can anything be more humiliating than to see the National Committee of the republican party thus humbly knelling at the feet of the "aristocracy" of the South? Do we employ a National Committee for the purpose of making a national committee? Do we not, in doing so, make the National Committee to pledge and bind Congress to advance? Is Congress, after rejecting the dictation of the President, to submit to the dictation of the National Committee? In the name of the radical party, we heartily say, No; and, since we speak, no representative from the South can pledge to the rebels as absolutely authorized, excepted and sold.

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